

PATENT
IBM Docket No. RAL920000013US2

REMARKS

The claims have been amended by rewriting claims 2, 5-6, and 10, and cancelling claims 1 and 4. Claims 2-3 and 5-11 remain in the application.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims presented be reconsidered and withdrawn in light of the amendments above and the discussion which follows and that the application be found in condition for immediate allowance.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Figure 3. In response, Applicants have amended Figure 3. The amendment is outlined in the above "Amendments to the Drawings" section. Please notice the attached "Replacement Sheet."

Claim Rejections

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) over what the Examiner asserts is admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent 4,731,785 to Ferenc.

In response, Applicants have cancelled independent claims 1 and 4.

Claim Objections

Claims 2-3, 5-8, and 10 have been objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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In response, Applicants have rewritten claims 2, and 5-6 in independent form including all of the limitations of the cancelled claim from which they depend. Claim 2 includes all of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 5-6 each include all of the limitations of claim 4. Amendment of independent claim 7 and dependent claim 8 has not been made since they do not depend on a rejected claim. Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 2. Although some dependent claims have "Original" status, these amendments are such that each objected claim depends not from a rejected claim and includes each of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore these claims are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

The purpose of these amendments is to avoid what the Examiner asserts is prior art.

Allowed Claims

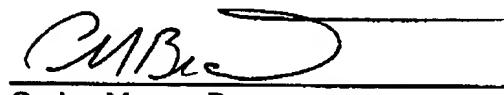
Claim 9 is allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing it is believed that this case has been placed in condition for a Notice of Allowability and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to have a telephonic discussion of the positions here taken, the courtesy of a telephone call prior to any forthcoming rejection would be greatly appreciated.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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